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The Lactose Text

This abstract is nearly half background information. One of the reasons that backgrounding is not signalled by its own distinct signal (such as a conjunction) may be that such a signal would in effect say that the author thought the reader would not know this information. Some readers might find that mildly condescending if it were made explicit.

Backgrounding is seldom signalled explicitly.

The text:

- 1) Lactose and Lactase
- 2) Lactose is milk sugar; 3) the enzyme lactase breaks it down.
- 4) For want of lactase most adults cannot digest milk.
- 5) In populations that drink milk the adults have more lactase, perhaps through natural selection.
- 6) Norman Kretchmer, Scientific American, page 70, October 1972.

